

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, OVIP, HK, CH

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BUTZ' COMMENTS ON PRC

1. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE APRIL 9 CARRIED SHORT ITEM DATE-LINED HONG KONG REPOFTING THAT DURING MEETING WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SECRETARY BUTZ PREDICTED PRC WOULD BUY DOLS 1.2 BILLION WORTH OF GRAIN FROM US THIS FISCAL YEAR, AND THAT BASIC FAILINGS IN CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM WERE THE CAUSE OF SUCH LARGE GRAIN PURCHASES. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON RADIO NEWSCAST, SECRETARY BUTZ ALSO ANSWERED A QUESTION ON WHY HE WAS NOT VISITING THE PRC BY REFERRING TO STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEF THAT BECAUSE OF PRC DOMESTIC CAMPAIGN AND POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR PRC POLICY SHIFTS, TIMING NOT APPROPRIATE.

2. PLEASE PROVIDE FULLEST AVAILABLE ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY BUTZ' REMARKS ON PRC MATTERS, AND EXTENT OF HONG KONG PRESS COVERAGE OF THOSE REMARKS. RUSH

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